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- possession of thy fortresses ; go into the clay and tread in the chaff ; take possession for brick. There fire will devour thee, the sword will cut thee off, it will devour thee as the locust, and thou shalt be burdened as the wingless locust. Thou didst increase thy commerce beyond the stars of heaven ; the locust hastened and was spread out. Thy mingled host leaped forth as the wingless locust, as the locust that has lighted upon a hedge on a frosty day ; the sun rose and it leaped off, and no one knows its place. Woe to them ! Thy shepherds slumbered, the Assyrian King lulled to sleep thy mighty men ; thy people departed to the mountains, and there was no one who gathered. There is no healing for thine affliction, thy plague festered ; all who hear the report of thee will clap hands over thee ; for upon whom has not thy wickedness come continually ?

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A TRANSLATION OF THE TARGUM (JONATHAN) OF THE PROPHECY OF NAHUM.¹

CHAPTER I.

- 1 The burden [W. has *shadow*] of the cup of cursing which Nineveh is to be made to drink. First Jonah, son of Amitti, [W. inserts *the prophet*] of Gath Hepher, prophesied against her, and she turned from her sins ; and now that she sinned again, Nahum from the house of Koshi prophesied against her again,
- 2 according as it is written in this record. A God who is a judge and an avenger is Jehovah. An avenger is Jehovah and much power is with him. Ready is Jehovah to take vengeance upon the haters of his people, even in mighty
- 3 anger upon his enemies. Jehovah is slow to anger but much power is with him. Jehovah is ready to take vengeance [B. R. omits the foregoing clause.] but he forgives those who turn to the law ; yet those who do not turn he does not fail to punish. Jehovah leads in tempest and in wind, and clouds of dark-
- 4 ness he casts down before him. He rebukes the sea and makes it dry, and all the rivers he dries up. Bashan is desolate and Carmel, and the trees of Lebanon droop. The mountains tremble before him, and the hills are broken ;
- 5 and the earth is wasted before him, both the world and all dwellers therein.
- 6 When he reveals himself in mercy to give the law to his people, then the world trembles before him. But when he reveals himself in anger to take vengeance upon the haters of his people, before his vengeance who shall arise, and who shall bear up in the evil of his anger ? His anger dissolves like fire,

¹The texts used are those of Walton and the Biblia Regia. Differences between them are indicated by alternative readings in brackets.

7 and the rocks are broken before him. Good is Jehovah to Israel, to lean upon
 in the time of distress, and those who trust in his word are made manifest be-
 8 fore him. In mighty anger and in vehement wrath he will make utter de-
 struction of the peoples who have arisen and laid waste the holy house of
 9 Jehovah, and his enemies he will deliver to Geḥenna. Ye peoples who have
 spoiled Israel, what are ye devising against Jehovah? An utter destruction
 of you he is about to make, and distress shall not arise against the house of
 10 Israel twice [W. reads, *and there shall not arise to you twice, as to the house*
of Israel, breath after distress.]. Because the rulers of the people who spoiled
 the house of Israel, as they stagger in wine, so seduced them, and consumed
 11 them as fire consumes stubble very dry. From thee, Nineveh comes forth a
 king who is devising evil against the people of Jehovah, who counsels a
 12 counsel of wickedness. Thus saith Jehovah: Though perfect in counsel and
 great in number be the peoples who are assembled to afflict thee, O Jerusalem,
 and they cross the Tigris and pass over the Euphrates and come to afflict thee,
 13 though I have made thee serve, I will not make thee serve again. And now I
 will shiver the yoke of the peoples from your necks, and your chains I will
 14 tear off. And Jehovah will command the king of Assyria concerning thee,
 and there shall no more be a remembrance of thy name. From the house of
 thy idols I will cut off carved image and molten image. There I will make
 15 thy grave because this is a very light thing for me. Behold upon the moun-
 tains of the land of Israel [B. R. omits *of the land*] the feet of the bearer of
 glad tidings, the proclaimer of peace! Celebrate, O Judah, thy feasts, fulfil
 thy vows; because the wicked shall not pass over thee again. They are all cut off.

CHAPTER II.

1 Those who were coming up and spreading over thy land were laying siege to
 thee, setting watches upon thy ways. Strengthen the neck; make strength
 exceedingly firm [W. reads, *strong of neck, exceedingly firm of strength*].
 2 Because Jehovah restores to Jacob his strength, to Israel his excellence; for
 3 spoilers have spoiled them and destroyed the cities of their praise. The
 shields of their heroes are made red, and the men of war are in garments of
 scarlet. With fire the torches of their chariots are prepared for the day of
 their ornamentation. The leaders of their army are clothed in gorgeous ap-
 4 parel. Through the streets the chariots rush madly; the sound of the clash
 of their arms is heard in the broad ways of the city. Their aspect is as torches,
 5 as darting lightning. The leaders of their army are put in authority, they
 stumble in their goings. They hasten; they lay the wall, and they build the
 6 towers. The bridges of the rivers are broken down and the king trembles in
 7 his palace. The queen sitting in a sedan goes forth into captivity, and her
 attending maidens go after her mourning as with the sound of doves, beating
 8 upon their breasts. Though Nineveh was like a place of the collection of
 waters from the days before her, yet they are fleeing. Stand! stand! but
 9 there is no one who is turning about to stand. Plunder silver, plunder gold,
 10 and there is no end to the treasures. Collect all desirable things. Plundered

and spoiled and opened to the enemy is the gate ; and hearts melting and smiting of knees and distress in all loins, and all their faces are covered with blackness, black as a pot. Where are the habitations of the kings and the house of the dwelling of the princes, where the kings walked ? There they left their sons, behold, as a lion that remains at his prey in security, and there is no one who causes alarm. The kings brought booty to their wives and spoils to their sons, and filled their treasures with booty and their palace with spoil. Behold I am about to send my fury upon thee, saith Jehovah of hosts, and I will burn up thy chariots with fire, and thy villages the sword shall destroy ; and I will consume thy commerce from the earth, and the voice of thy messengers shall no more be heard.

CHAPTER III.

1 Woe to the city shedding blood ! She is all full of lies and spoils. The
2 slaughter does not cease. The sound of the striking of blows and the sound
3 of the moving of wheels, and horses prancing and chariots bounding. Horsemen curveting, and flame and glitter of swords, and flash of spear, and a great
4 number of slain, and a multitude of dead bodies, and there is no end to the slain ; they stumble over their slain. Because of the greatness of the din of the city, which is as a harlot, a street-walker, beautiful of grace [W. has *appearance*], knowing enchantments, that betrayeth peoples with her harlotries
5 and kingdoms with her enchantments. Behold I send my fury against thee saith Jehovah of hosts, and I will uncover the shame of thy sin upon thy face,
6 and I will show the peoples thy shame and kingdoms thy ignominy. And I will cast upon thee filthy things and disgrace thee, and make thee vile in the eyes of every one seeing thee. And it shall be that every one who shall see thee shall flee far from thee, and shall say : Nineveh is spoiled. Who will
8 mourn for thee ? Where shall I find comforters for thee ? Art thou then better than great Alexandria, which dwelt amid the rivers, waters all around
9 her, whose wall was the sea, of the sea were her walls ? Ethiopia was her support, also Egypt, and there was no end. The inhabitants of Put and the
10 Lybians were among thy helpers. Even she went into exile as a captive ; also her babes were dashed in pieces at the head of all the streets ; and upon her honored men they cast the lot, and all her great men were broken down
11 with chains. Also thou shalt drink as a drunkard ; also thou shalt seek help against the enemy. All thy fortresses are like early figs, which, if they are shaken, fall, and there are left among them dried clusters which are fit
13 for eating. Behold, thy people are weak like women in the midst of thee. To thine enemies shall certainly be opened the gates of thy land, and fire shall
14 consume thy strength. Collect water into the midst of thee ; make strong thy fortresses ; multiply power ; cause service to be done in the clay ; strengthen
15 thy buildings. There the peoples that are strong shall come against thee as fire, those who kill by the sword shall consume thee. The armies of the peoples which are numerous as devouring locusts shall be assembled against thee.
16 They shall cover thee as the swarming locusts ; they shall devastate thee as the locusts. Thou hast made thy traders more numerous than the stars of

- heaven. Behold they are as swarming locusts, which spread abroad and fly
17 away. Behold thy coins glitter as locusts, and thy satraps are as young locusts,
which sit upon the walls upon a chilly day, which, when the sun breaks forth
upon them, disperse, and the place whither they have fled is not known.
18 Broken are thy strong men, O king of Assyria. The people of thy armies are
in exile. Thy people are scattered upon the mountains and there is no one
19 gathering them. There is no one who mourns for thy hurt. Thy wound is
deadly. All who hear the report of thee shall clap their hands over thee; they
rejoice, for upon whom hath not the blow of thy iniquity passed continually?

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A TRANSLATION OF THE VULGATE OF THE PROPHECY OF NAHUM ¹

CHAPTER I.

- 1 The burden of Nineveh; the record of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.
- 2 A jealous one is God, and an avenger is the Lord, and one having wrath; an
avenger is the Lord against his adversaries, and angry is he with his enemies.
- 3 The Lord is patient and great in strength, and cleansing he will not make
guiltless. The Lord is in the tempest, and in the whirlwind are his ways, and
- 4 clouds are the dust of his feet. He rebuketh the sea and maketh it dry, and
all the rivers he reduceth to a desert. Bashan is enfeebled, and Carmel, and the
- 5 flower of Lebanon droopeth. Mountains are shaken by him, and hills are for-
saken; and the earth quaketh at his presence, both the world and all dwellers
- 6 therein. In the presence of his indignation who shall stand, and who shall
resist in the wrath of his fury? His indignation is poured out as fire, and the
- 7 rocks are torn asunder by him. The Lord is good, and strengtheneth much in
- 8 the day of distress; and he knoweth those hoping in him. And in a flood
passing over, he will make an end of her place; and darkness shall pursue his
- 9 enemies. What devise ye against the Lord? He will make an end; distress
- 10 shall not arise twice. Because as thorns entwine themselves, so is the revelling
- 11 of those drinking together; they shall be consumed as stubble fully dry. From
thee shall go forth a deviser of evil against the Lord, one occupied in mind
- 12 with wrong-doing. Thus saith the Lord: Though they may be complete, and
so many, so also they are shorn, and he will pass through. I have afflicted

¹The text used is that of Sixtus V. and Clement VIII.